



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
ALPHA COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 19TH INFANTRY REGIMENT  
8775 ALBANESE DRIVE  
FORT BENNING, GEORGIA 31905-4925

27 April 2018

Dear Family Member:

Your Soldier recently reported to the 198th Infantry Training Brigade at Fort Benning, Georgia to begin training to be a United States Army Infantry Soldiers. We are very proud of your Soldier's decision to join this honorable and important profession of arms. The decision to join the Army is a significant one, undoubtedly influenced by the pride and patriotism that you have instilled.

As your Soldier's Company Commander, I would like to welcome you to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 19th Infantry Regiment and to the Army family. Your Soldier has been assigned to Alpha Company for Initial Entry Training (IET). The Company Cadre takes pride in caring for and training these outstanding young patriots and building them into Infantry Soldiers. Our Drill Sergeants are specially selected, highly trained, and proud of their mission. They teach, train, and assess your Soldier throughout the cycle, and assist in every manner to help your Soldier graduate. The Drill Sergeants will instill in your Soldier self-discipline, physical tenacity, mental toughness, and the tactical skills required of an Infantry Soldiers. The following letter provides important information about communication with your Soldier, emergencies, family day, and graduation.

**Mail:** We deliver mail nightly throughout 14 weeks of training. Mail typically takes two days longer to complete processing, but we make sure your Soldier receives your letters. Please do not send packages containing the items listed on the contraband enclosure to this letter. Soldiers are encouraged to write letters home throughout their training. Due to the rigors of training, your words from home serve as a great source of comfort and motivation. You can write to your Soldier at the following address:

Last Name, First Name, Roster Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Alpha Company, 1-19th IN  
8775 Albanese Drive  
Fort Benning, GA 31905

In addition, **please write your Soldier's roster number on the back of the envelope and highlight the number in the soldier's platoon color** as this will help us to sort the mail efficiently. Mail will be distributed even if not highlighted in platoon colors. The platoon colors are: 1<sup>st</sup> – yellow, 2<sup>nd</sup> – blue, 3<sup>rd</sup> – green, 4<sup>th</sup> – red. Please Note: The first number in the roster number represents the Platoon of your Soldier.

**Emergency Contact:** In the case of a serious emergency (i.e., death in the family, serious illness, etc.) contact your local American Red Cross to ensure that the message will be sent through the proper channels. You may contact the Battalion Staff Duty at (706) 544-9253. A cadre member will assist you and notify your Soldier through his Chain

of Command. It is imperative that all emergency notifications are validated and delivered through the American Red Cross.

**GuideOn Military App:** GuideOn Military App is an application for all Android and iPhone users which is available for the Army installation of Fort Benning, Georgia. GuideOn Military allows users to search locations on and around certain military installations by building number or keywords. GuideOn provides users information about selected locations along with the ability to start hands free turn by turn directions to their selected destinations.

**Family Day Pass:** The Family Day Pass occurs from **30 June to 1 July 2018** at the end of Phase III (Blue Phase) of training. This break represents the completion of Basic Combat Training (BCT). Your Soldier resumes specific advanced Infantry training immediately following the Family Day weekend. An orientation briefing for families and guests occurs at **8:00 a.m.** at the Battalion Classroom located at Bldg. 3240 8775 Albanese Drive. All Soldiers will concurrently receive a weekend safety briefing in the company training area. At the completion of both briefings, Soldiers will be released to their family to spend the time they have on pass in the greater Columbus, Georgia area. **Soldiers will be released on pass after the family day brief on the 30<sup>th</sup> and again at 0700 on the 1<sup>st</sup>. Soldiers will return to the Company no later than 7:00 p.m. on the nights of 30 June and 1 July.** Soldiers shall continue to adhere to the rules of IET, including restrictions from alcohol, tobacco, drug use, automotive driving, caffeinated items and other contraband. Soldiers are not allowed to bring any items listed as contraband back into the training area at the conclusion of the pass weekend. Throughout the pass, Soldiers must remain in military uniform and observe all military customs, courtesies and discipline. You may enjoy this time to have dinner with your Soldier, and spend time getting re-acquainted. Please remain in the Columbus, Georgia or Phenix City, Alabama area (within a 25 mile radius). Families are welcome to visit their Soldier for this mid-cycle pass. Those Soldiers who do not have any visitors are still allowed to take the pass with other Soldiers' families or with groups of other Soldiers but will be required to return to the company area each night. **The mid-cycle pass is a privilege that can be pulled from a Soldier based on substandard performance or acts of indiscipline. Please ensure your Soldier is authorized to go on pass before making your own travel arrangements to visit during this pass.** All Soldiers must return from pass each day no later than the times indicated above.

**Turning Blue Ceremony:** During the Turning Blue ceremony, your Soldier will receive the Infantry Blue Cord, signifying completion of all requirements to earn the title of U.S. Army Infantry Soldiers – joining the ranks of the strongest, best equipped and most highly trained Soldiers in the world. The 1-19th Infantry Battalion Commander conducts an orientation briefing for families and guests on **2 August at 8:00 a.m.** in the **Battalion Classroom** located at **Bldg. 3240 8775 Albanese Drive**. After the briefing, all guests will be directed to the **Company Training Area** for the **Turning Blue Ceremony at 9:00 a.m.** All Soldiers graduating will be released on pass with their

family members following the ceremony. However, they must return from pass no later than 7:00 p.m. that evening. Please follow Facebook for updates to briefings and ceremony timeline.

**Graduation:** Graduation occurs on **3 August** outside the **National Infantry Museum (NIM)**. The ceremony begins promptly at **9:00 a.m.** I recommend you arrive at least an hour early to allow time for parking and finding a seat. Upon completion of the ceremony, Soldiers will be released to travel to their follow-on assignments. Buses are provided for Soldiers going to their next assignments, however, National Guard Soldiers are allowed to ride home with their families. For more information about graduation and the National Infantry Museum, visit their website at [www.nationalinfantrymuseum.com](http://www.nationalinfantrymuseum.com). Click on "Plan Your Visit" and then "Graduations." The National Infantry Museum posts a live viewing of graduations on their Facebook page for family members unable to attend the ceremony. Search National Infantry Museum or @nationalinfantrymuseum.

**Please remember that only the Soldiers who meet all requirements will graduate.** Most Soldiers complete the training on time, but some do not. If a Soldier fails to pass a mandatory event or is injured, he or she may be recycled to another company to complete the missed training. **We encourage your Soldier to keep you informed throughout the cycle about their training status.**

The Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) office can assist the Family and friends of graduating Soldiers in referring them to local hotels and car rental agencies. You can visit their website at [www.benningmwr.com](http://www.benningmwr.com). On-post accommodations are limited and on a first-come, first-served basis so you must call ahead to check availability: (706) 689-0067. MWR also offers the opportunity to stay at the Uchee Creek Recreation area. Uchee Creek provides individual cabins that are completely furnished, including a kitchen, for about the same price as a hotel room. Uchee Creek can be reached at (706) 545-4053 (details are also available on the MWR website). I've enclosed a map of Sand Hill to aid with navigation, and I also recommend the following helpful websites:

[www.benningmwr.com/maps.php](http://www.benningmwr.com/maps.php) (Click on "Sand Hill" for a map of the area)  
[www.benningmwr.com](http://www.benningmwr.com) (Information on Ft. Benning facilities and services)  
[www.visitcolumbusga.com](http://www.visitcolumbusga.com) (Info for the local area)  
[www.benning.army.mil/infantry/198th/](http://www.benning.army.mil/infantry/198th/) (Information on training – check out the OSUT 14 Week Journey)


Should you have any serious concerns or need information, assurance or advice about your Soldier, please contact me at [usarmy.benning.mcoe.mbx.198th-119-a@mail.mil](mailto:usarmy.benning.mcoe.mbx.198th-119-a@mail.mil). I will return your email as promptly as possible.

**Facebook.** 1-19 IN Battalion has a Facebook page designed to keep you informed about training and events that occur within the company. To access the page, use

Facebook's "Find Groups" function and search for 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 19<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment or search @119rocksteady. You may also use the Brigade Facebook Quick Response Code in the enclosure to access the 198<sup>th</sup> Brigade Facebook page directly from any smartphone. Once you have become a group member, you will be able to view photos and descriptions of training events. Additionally, the Company First Sergeant and I will periodically post entries on the page designed to give you more information and insight into the training process. You should not use the Facebook page to voice personal issues or concerns.

Again, thank you for the years of effort that you have invested in your Soldier. I assure you that we will train, care for and give your Soldier every opportunity to become a US Army Infantry Soldier. We look forward to meeting you on Family Day and Graduation.

Sincerely,

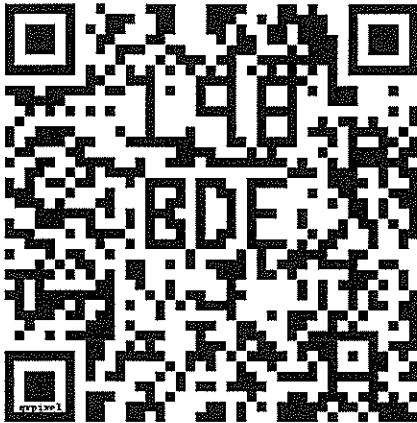
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric J. Lemire".

ERIC J. LEMIRE  
Captain, U.S. Army  
Commanding

Enclosures:

- 198<sup>th</sup> Brigade face book Page
- Events and Contraband
- Sandhill Area Map

Enclosure: 198<sup>th</sup> Brigade Facebook Page Quick Response Code



Listed below are some key events to mark on your calendar:

<b>MID-CYCLE PASS</b>			
<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Family Orientation /Soldiers' Safety Briefing	30 June 2018	8:00 a.m.	1-19 IN Classroom
Mid-Cycle Pass	30 June 2018	8:30 a.m.	Columbus, GA
Soldiers return from pass	30 June 2018	7:00 p.m.	Company Area
Soldiers released on pass	1 July 2018	7:00 a.m.	Columbus, GA
Soldiers return from pass	1 July 2018	7:00 p.m.	Company Area
<b>GRADUATION ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Battalion Commander Family Briefing	2 August 2018	8:00 a.m.	1-19 IN Classroom
Turning Blue Ceremony	2 August 2018	9:00 a.m.	Company Area
Soldiers Return from Pass	2 August 2018	7:00 p.m.	Company Area
Graduation Ceremony	3 August 2018	9:00 a.m.	National Infantry Museum

Please do not send packages containing any of the items listed below. Initial Entry Training Soldiers are not authorized to have them.

- Any type of food items
- Civilian reading material (except for religious text, i.e. Holy Bible, Book of Mormon, the Koran, etc.)
- Firearms and/or knives and razors
- Civilian clothing
- Medication of any type (prescription or over the counter)
- Cameras, video or audio tapes or CDs
- Stuffed animals and/or dolls
- Plants (live or artificial)
- Liquids of any sort
- Cash (in excess of \$80.00)
- Any type of tobacco products or nicotine patches and/or gum
- Any caffeine products
- Any type of pornographic materials to include pictures, photographs, post cards, magazines, etc.

# SAND HILL

Entrance  
from Far Road  
Security Check Point

**YOU ARE HERE**

30th AG  
RECSTA  
Joliet Station Hall  
Building 3220

2nd Inf. Div. Rd.

Albanese  
Barracks  
Building 3240

Hanson  
Barracks  
Building 3245

Hansen St.

DENTAL

SICK  
CALL

Holcomb  
Barracks  
Building 3335

Building 3410

Moyle Rd.

2154  
BN

Tread  
Barr  
Build 3405

3350  
Gym

Kinsman  
Barracks  
Building 3305

Eagle  
Tower

2nd Ar. Div. Rd.

2158  
BN

2119  
BN

41st Inf. Reg.

4

Pomeroy  
Field

Regimental  
Chapel

198th  
BDE HQ  
Building 3215

11th Airborne Div. Rd.

Roush  
Barracks  
Building 3210

Wildcat Rd.

185

Sand Hill  
Main  
Entrance  
Security  
Check Point

Custer Road

US 27/280

Old Cusseta Highway

Custer Rd.

Main Post  
Security  
Check Point

Wetherby  
Field

South on I-185, take exit 1-A East on US 27/280 toward Cusseta,  
take N. Custer Road ext. North on Custer Road to Sand Hill  
check point on 11th Airborne Division Road.

**Battalion Staff Duty**  
**706-544-9253**  
**8775 Albanese Drive,**  
**BLDG 3240**

made by DS Milovanova